

Maine's Adult Drug Treatment Court Program Overview

Maine's Adult Drug Treatment Court was created by statute in August 2000. It is a court supervised, *post-plea* (but pre-final disposition) drug diversion program that requires weekly court appearances before the designated program judge. Eleven Superior Court and District Court Judges are currently assigned to five adult drug courts in York, Cumberland, Androscoggin, Penobscot and Washington counties serving nearly two-thirds of Maine's population.

As of September 1, 2004, a total of 439 offenders have been admitted into these drug courts. To date, a total of 317 participants have been discharged of whom 167 (53%) have successfully completed the program and graduated. The overall graduation rate (53%) is higher than most drug court programs nationally and exceeds those reported in a recent evaluation of four well established mentor drug courts.

	<i>York</i>	<i>Cumberland</i>	<i>Androscoggin</i>	<i>Oxford</i>	<i>Penobscot</i>	<i>Washington</i>	<i>Total</i>
Currently Active	29	24	28	0	26	15	122
Graduated	25	31	36	14	27	34	167
Expelled	18	36	34	10	21	31	150
Graduation Rate	58%	46%	51%	58%	56%	52%	53%
National Estimate							50%

There is growing evidence in the research literature that drug courts are reducing jail and prison populations by reducing the high rates of recidivism of drug involved offenders, generating significant savings in incarceration related expenditures. For example, graduates of Maine's drug court program faced a total term of imprisonment of 2,082 months combined averaging 20 months ranging from 0 to 96 months. These graduates also reported a substantial amount of prior criminal activity having illegally obtained a total of \$1,926,000 each year in order to support their habit.

Additional Facts

- Maine's graduation rate (53%) is higher than most drug court programs nationally.
- The rate of positive drug tests among participants in Maine (8%) is significantly lower than rates of positive drug tests across drug court programs nationally (17%) as well as for adult offenders in other non-institutionalized programs (35%).
- More than half of all drug court participants (53%) received two or more unscheduled home visits by law enforcement officials in the past year.
- Overall, 61% of participants have accessed at least one type of ancillary service and 48% have accessed multiple types of ancillary services. These include batterer's intervention programs, crisis intervention, mental health, residential, health care, employment, educational, and transportation services.